

29 Aug 1984

Dear Mom and Dad,

We were glad to get Mom's call the other night and hear that everyone is well and happy. This week and the last have flown by for me. Last week I was in Atlanta for the course I told you about. It was mildly interesting but probably not worthwhile as the speakers didn't delve deeply enough into the workings of their models. In fact, most of them obviously didn't KNOW the details. Staying near campus was very convenient for a 3-mile jog in the morning and for meals in the student union buildings. There were only a few summer students around but it was interesting to hear some of their conversations. I would have guessed they were high school sophomores if I met them on the street!

I arrived home on Friday but didn't see much of Vickie since she went off with Susan Reed to Wolftrap where they met Bob and Lucette Courtemanche and some of their friends for a picnic on the lawn and a performance by the Statler Brothers whom I know little about. Susan is preparing to file for divorce. On Saturday she joined us and our friend from the Mediterranean, Mike Driscoll, for tennis at our place. The teams were pretty evenly matched and was fun (Vickie and I won).

~~This week I am in the office but going to another class to~~ which I was originally assigned as an alternate. It is on SIMSCRIPT, a special language for simulation which Dad might have heard of. The language is fun to use and I would like to apply it to aircraft carrier operations if such a project can be established. While at Georgia Tech I noticed "Simon's Basic" in the bookstore. It is an advanced BASIC for the Commodore 64 which I have read about. It was only \$19 so Dad ~~access~~ may want to try it for easy ~~axis~~ to graphics, color, and music via BASIC commands.

Soon we must start packing for the trip! We will be gone for two weeks and do a lot of different things so it is difficult to decide what to bring along. We successfully completed a 20 mile run on Sunday

and hope to do the same distance in London next Sunday. Then we will be hiking in the mountains, but also need to dress up for the opera in Vienna. I'm sure everything will turn out right in the end. Friday we are leaving work at noon and having lunch in Old Town at the french restaurant La Bergerie. I ate so cheaply in Atlanta that my left-over per diem will cover this lunch. Then we will drive up to Baltimore-Washington airport for our 7:15 PM (hopefully) flight to London.

Love, *Jim*

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